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26 April 1966

DCI BRIEFING FOR
RIVERS SUBCOMMITTEE

MISSILES IN CUBA

- I. Mister Chairman, you asked me in a letter of April 6 to comment on a lengthy article which appeared on March 3 in the Coral Gables Times in Florida. This article alleged that there are still strategic Soviet missiles in Cuba.
- II. The article is a mish-mash of conjecture, speculation, rumor, and outright misinformation. It contains no information that had not been previously reported and checked out in exhaustive detail.
- A. I want you to know, however, that no reports of this nature are dismissed out of hand. We could not afford to do so--and indeed would be guilty of gross negligence--as long as we can not have on-site inspection of any possible missile sites in Cuba.

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4. The conclusion of the investigation was that all of the information on which the article was based came from missile and rocket publications, talks with Cuban refugees, and the Interim Report published by the Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 9, 1963, entitled "The Cuban Military Buildup"--a report relating to the 1962 buildup which led to the crisis in October, 1962.

III. The article itself, as I said, is full of misinformation

- A. One photograph, for example, shows a missile on a tracked vehicle , and describes it as "similar to the US Pershing."

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1. On this foundation, the article asserts that Cuba has a nuclear weapon which can reach "Cape Canaveral, Huntsville, and many lower southern military installations and cities."
2. In point of fact, the weapon shown in the photograph is a Soviet tactical missile, the **FROG**, with a range of 29 nautical miles.

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PERSHING's range, with an 800-pound warhead, is 400, rather than 700 nautical miles.

B. Another photograph is described as showing a "naval-type cruise missile with a reported range of 150 to 200 miles," which again, of course, would bring Florida within range.

1. The missile shown in the photograph is what we call the KENNEL. As a coastal defense cruise missile, it actually has a range of 25 to 50 nautical miles, depending on the elevation of the launch site. The ground forces version, mounted on a transporter-launcher, is credited with a range of 60 to 70 nautical miles.

2. The article, however, goes on to speak of a cruise-type missile of medium or intermediate range. This is supposed to have been shown in the January, 1964, parade in Havana.

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C. The article also brings up the ancient stories about a secret Soviet weapon called the "GOLEM," which fires strategic missiles from fixed underwater installations presumably planted by ship or by

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1. This one is straight out of science fiction. We have never obtained any credible evidence that the Soviet Union has, or is even working on, such a weapons system.

D. I have given these examples, not for the purpose of arguing that two or three mistakes are enough to discredit the entire article, but as examples of how every single statement in an article of this kind is checked out carefully against all available information from all of our sources.

1. Our continuing watch over the possibility of strategic missiles in Cuba utilizes all of our resources

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IV. There is a joint team of CIA and DIA intelligence experts, representing both military and Cuban expertise, which meets once a month, and more often if necessary, to assess the military posture of Cuba with special attention to the possibility that strategic weapons might still be on the island.

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A. The latest joint CIA-DIA report on this problem, dated April 19, concludes that:

"Cuba's present missile inventory is confined to defensive and tactical weapons... There are no strategic weapons or foreign troop units in Cuba at this time. While we recognize that some strategic weapons could be deliberately concealed or clandestinely reintroduced on the island, it is our judgment that this has not taken place."

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